



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

17 AUGUST 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Homeless Man Suspected of Starting Wildfire That Scorched 1,400 Acres

(U) The Azusa Police Department said Friday that a homeless man, Osmin Palencia, 36, is wanted for allegedly starting the Ranch 2 Fire, which erupted on the afternoon of 13 August. Officials said Palencia is last known to have lived in an encampment in the Azusa Canyon riverbed, near where the fire sparked. Palencia is believed to be violent and currently has multiple active arrest warrants.

SOURCE: 16 August 2020, [Fox News](#)

(U) Otay Mesa – Inmates Attack Six Correctional Officers at Donovan State Prison

(U) Roughly 20 inmates were in the yard at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility when an unknown number of them began to attack the officers just before 4 pm on 16 August. Officers gave inmates commands to stop the violence and used less-lethal measures before an officer fired a warning shot, which quelled the attack. Six officers were taken to hospitals for stab wounds, lacerations, and possible broken bones. Two inmates also were taken to hospitals, while other inmates were treated at the prison's medical facility.

SOURCE: 16 August 2020, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Second Load of Cactus to Contain Methamphetamine in Less Than One Week

(U) Otay Mesa – US Customs and Border Protection officers at the Otay Mesa border entry in California found 1,098 wrapped packages of methamphetamine mixed in crates of cactus pads, worth a street value of about \$3.3 million. The cactus shipment arrived at the Otay Mesa commercial facility on 11 August, four days after officers there found \$1.5 million of meth in crates of cactus pads. During the 11 August inspection, the shipment was referred to the port's x-ray system where officers found anomalies in the shipment, and referred it to a dock for more thorough examination. A canine team screened the truck and trailer, and alerted authorities to the shipment.

SOURCE: 16 August 2020, [AG Web](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) New York – Cleric Extradited from Jamaica on Terrorism Charges

(U) New York City – Abdullah al-Faisal, who had been behind bars in Jamaica, has been extradited to New York City on charges he recruited followers and fighters for the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) through fiery online lectures and militant propaganda. Al-Faisal pleaded not guilty in Manhattan state court to charges including conspiracy and supporting terrorism. The 56-year-old al-Faisal, also known as Shaikh Faisal, has been compared to the American-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, a leader of al-Qaida in Yemen who was killed in 2011. After traveling the globe supporting various terrorist causes, al-

UNCLASSIFIED

Faisal headquartered in Jamaica and continued to preach, using the internet to spread his message as ISIS emerged in Syria in 2014. The Manhattan district attorney said al-Faisal's arrest dealt a major blow to ISIS' overall recruitment capabilities.

SOURCE: 14 August 2020, [AP News](#)

(U) Texas – 18-hour Standoff Ends with Three Police Officers Shot and Man's Surrender

(U) Cedar Park – A standoff between police and an armed man began after a woman reported her son, in his mid-20s, for a domestic violence incident. The suspect fired on officers when they entered the house, at which point officers returned gunfire. Three officers were injured in the shoot-out, and the suspect barricaded himself inside the home with three other family members. The standoff lasted roughly 18-hours and ended when the suspect let his family leave and he turned himself. The officers are currently in stable condition at a local hospital.

SOURCE: 17 August 2020, [Click 2 Houston](#)

(U) Texas – At Least Five People Shot During Dispute at Flea Market

(U) San Antonio – Police responded to active-shooter reports at Mission Market around 11:30 am after an intense shooting at a Flea Market on the morning of 16 August. San Antonio police are actively investigating the incident, but have commented that at least five people were injured in the shooting. The incident involved several people and multiple shooters including a security guard, who returned fire at the initial shooter. Investigators found more than 100 shell casings and recovered several weapons at the scene of the crime. The manager of the flea market said the incident began as a family dispute between vendors and buyers.

SOURCE: 16 August 2020, [News4SA](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Canada – Hackers Targeted Thousands of Government Service Accounts

(U) Ottawa – The Canadian government is warning its citizens not to reuse old passwords after thousands of accounts, including logins, were targeted in a credential stuffing attack. Hackers obtained and attempted to use the GCKey passwords and usernames of 9,041 people. GCKey is the online authentication system that allows people access to Service Canada, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and more than two dozen other government departments. For a third of the accounts affected, the hackers were successful in accessing government services online. Those accounts will be further examined for suspicious activity.

SOURCE: 15 August 2020, [Global News](#)

(U) Philippines – Abu Sayyaf Leader Linked to Beheadings Surrenders

(U) Davao City – Abduljihad Susukan, a commander of the Muslim rebel group Abu Sayyaf, who has been linked to beheadings of hostages, including two Canadians and a Malaysian, in the southern Philippines has surrendered after being wounded in battle. Susukan is the highest-ranking commander of the small but brutal group to be taken into custody this year. He was served warrants for at least 23 cases of murder, six for attempted murder, and five for kidnapping. Security officials blame Susukan and his followers for taking part in cross-border kidnappings of tourists and others from the Malaysian state of Sabah on Borneo island.

SOURCE: 14 August 2020, [Gulf News](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Somalia – Over a Dozen Killed in Hours-Long Hotel Siege

(U) Mogadishu – At least 16 people were killed and dozens wounded in a gun and bomb attack by the al-Shabab armed group on an upscale beachfront hotel in Somalia's capital. The attack started in the afternoon with a powerful car bomb blast that blew off the security gates to the hotel. Then gunmen ran inside and took hostages, mostly young men and women who were dining there. The hotel siege ended on Sunday after a fierce three-hour gun battle between al-Shabab fighters and security forces. The death toll includes 11 victims and five assailants. Ambulance services reported transporting at least 43 wounded to hospitals in the area.

SOURCE: 17 August 2020, [Al Jazeera](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.